Students' Association
Film and Television Institute of India,
Law College Road,
Pune: 411004

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Pune 11th March. 2016

The Police arrived late last evening to campus to issue notices to the students of FTII as charge sheet would be filed in the session's court in Pune on Monday regarding the incidents which transpired at the Director's office on 17/8/2015. The police have now identified 18 more students in addition to the 17 students who were named earlier in the FIR. The Police issued fresh notices to the 18 new accused and the 12 students who were on anticipatory bail to appear in the session's court on Monday the 14th.

In total 35 students have been accused by the Director of preventing him from performing his duty. The duty of the director in this regard was to consult the students and faculty before taking a decision to assess the 2008 batch. Despite the faculty and students pointing out that the assessment of the 2008 batch is unjust and illtimed, the Director went on to continue with the assessment under strict orders from the ministry which led to the incidents on the 17th of August.

However, it has been nearly 7 months since the incident and now the Police identify 18 more students and add them to the list of already accused students. All of this happens with the proactive participation from the FTII administration and support from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

It is coming at a time when the Screenplay batch of 2013 and Film batch of 2008 are finishing their course and would be leaving campus. The 12 students on anticipatory bail have been ordered by the court not to leave Pune jurisdiction, but would be finishing the course and with these notices would be left wanting for a place to live. The FTII administration on one hand draws out academic schedules and deadlines and on the other hand proceeds with the court cases to corner the students. It is extremely disheartening and shameful to see the administration of a premier government run institute arm-twisting its students on orders from their superiors, who happen to be the elected representatives of the citizens.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of FTII and the Governing Council remains silent with respect to the court cases. The Chairman was asked by the faculty to relook at the cases during the Governing Council meeting held on 7th Jan. He however sidelined it as a non issue and continues to put pressure on the FTII administration to evict the students of 2008 batch who are at the fag end of their diploma films.

The FTII students brace themselves up to continue their struggle with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the FTII administration. It makes sense to see this in the context of the incidents in JNU and a progression in the current government's approach and attempts to "Criminalizing Dissent".

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